FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

10 DECEMBER 1984

End of Hijacking

Iranian security men arrested the four hijackers of the Kuwaiti airliner and released the remaining nine passengers after entering the aircraft disguised as service workers, IRNA announced late on 9 December. In the wake of the Iranian security operation, an Iranian Foreign Ministry official cited by Tehran radio stated that a military operation was not mounted earlier because: the Iranian authorities were trying to release the passengers through peaceful means; they wanted to tire out the hijackers, gain their trust, and gather information to make the operation a success; and they needed the necessary "political and propaganda atmosphere" to make losses in such an operation acceptable. The official reiterated Iran's critical view of Kuwait's conduct in the crisis, affirming that the Kuwaiti delegation to Tehran showed "indifference" toward the fate of the passengers and left Tehran "without any explanation" before the resolution of the hijacking. Iranian officials had earlier blamed Kuwait for refusing to respond to the hijackers' demands while at the same time refusing to sanction a military attack on the plane, according to the radio and IRNA.

For Kuwait's part, officials denied that their government had rejected a military solution and stressed Iran's responsiblity for deciding how to resolve the issue, according to Kuwait radio. Nevertheless, a Kuwaiti Government statement broadcast by the radio after the hijackers' surrender expressed Kuwait's gratitude to Iranian officials for successfully resolving the crisis.

Meanwhile, an Iranian official cited by IRNA rejected U.S. President Reagan's statement that Iran was in sympathy with the hijackers, asserting that such remarks do not merit analysis and show that the U.S. President has been provided with biased and incomplete information. Earlier, an Iranian statement carried by Tehran radio had accused the United States of endangering the lives of the passengers through its "propaganda" against Iran over the hijacking.

Gulf War

Iranian aircraft strafed a Kuwaiti merchant ship in the Gulf on 8 December, wrecking its engine room and injuring two seamen, the *GULF DAILY NEWS* reported. Citing a statement by the chairman of the ship's company, KUNA confirmed the attack, though it said the incident occurred on 9 December. Meanwhile, Iraq continued its attempts to blockade Khark Island by launching another attack on shipping in the area. A military spokesman cited by Baghdad radio stated that Iraqi planes scored accurate and effective hits on a large maritime target early on 9 December, and Bahraini maritime sources disclosed that a Bahamian-registered tanker was hit in an air attack south of Khark Island, according to AFP. Monitored Iranian sources have not mentioned any air attacks on shipping in the Gulf on 8 and 9 December.

In another development, the Iranian Ground Forces commander affirmed that Iran's armies have prepared themselves for the "crucial" offensive against the Iraqis, IRNA reported.

Lebanon

Al-Naqurah Talks — The Israeli-Lebanese military talks resumed in Al-Naqurah on 10 December, IDF radio announced. Earlier, Jerusalem radio noted that Israel regards the Christmas holiday as a "target date" after which it will reevaluate its policy if there is no significant development in the talks. At a meeting with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy the previous evening, Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres had stressed that Israel will take unilateral action in Lebanon unless real progress is made on security arrangements by Christmas, the radio said. Peres asked Murphy to convey this message "loud and clear" during his upcoming visits to Beirut and Damascus. A unilateral Israeli move would mean deployment of the IDF to a new line suitable to Israel, without making arrangements that would satisfy Lebanon as well and without fixing a date for further withdrawal to the international border, according to Israeli military sources cited by the radio.

Security Plan — Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt denied reports that he has agreed to the newly amended security plan for the coast, asserting in remarks broadcast by the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio that he has not approved and will not approve a security plan that aims to surround the Mountain and kill its inhabitants. The PSP supports the dispatch of the Army to the south, he maintained, but it will not allow the Army to deploy along the coastal road between Khaldah and the Al-Awwali River. The Druze leader stressed that the civil war is "regrettably" continuing.

Israel

An Israeli delegation will visit France this month to start detailed negotiations for the purchase of two nuclear reactors, AFP reported citing the energy and infrastructure minister. In remarks broadcast by the radio following his visit to Paris, Prime Minister Peres stressed that he was told explicitly by the French that they would sell no reactors possessing military potential.

In another development, Peres denied a *LE MONDE* report that he recently held a secret meeting in Israel with Jordan's King Husayn, the radio noted.

Syria

Relations With Jordan — Reacting to *LE MONDE*'s report that King Husayn recently met with Israeli Prime Minister Peres, Syria's *AL-THAWRAH* linked the convocation of the "divisionist" PNC session in Amman with the alleged Husayn-Peres meeting, asserting that Yasir 'Arafat and his followers held their PNC session in accordance with a joint Israeli-Jordanian

plot to liquidate the Palestinian cause, according to Damascus radio.

Despite its continued criticism of King Husayn's political stand, Syria sent an oil delegation to Amman on 8 December which will visit Jordanian oil exploration sites and exchange information with Jordanian experts, according to Amman's *SAWT AL-SHA'B*.

Relations With USSR — Syria and the Soviet Union signed an agreement on 8 December for the installation of an "intersputnik space communications ground station" in Syria, SANA reported.

PLO

Asked about the PLO's "new plan" following the PNC meeting in Amman, Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat affirmed in an interview on Nouakchott radio, after his arrival in Mauritania, that there is an emphasis on further escalation of military action in both the occupied territories and southern Lebanon.

King Fahd Interview

Saudi Arabia prefers to defer convening the Arab summit until there is a more favorable Arab climate, King Fahd declared in a press interview broadcast on Riyadh radio. Asked about proposed amendments to the Arab League Charter, the king said that if a review of the Arab League situation indicates that it could be improved by such action, Saudi Arabia would support it. After a query about Gulf military industrialization, he stressed that there will be coordination in developing production and meeting each country's needs in order to minimize imports. Earlier in the interview, he noted that Saudi Arabia has begun to export its grain surplus and part of its steel production.

Maghreb Affairs

A Moroccan parliamentary delegation arrived in Tripoli for a visit under the purview of the Arab-African union treaty, JANA reported.

Meanwhile, an SDAR communique cited by Algiers radio announced that 24 Moroccan soldiers were killed in attacks on 22 November and 6 December during the SDAR's Great Maghreb offensive.

Sudan

President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri arrived in the PRC for a 5-day state visit, XINHUA reported.

Pakistan, DRA Border Incidents

Pakistani Armed Forces had to use antiaircraft guns against DRA planes that made attacks on 1 December, Karachi's *MASHRIQ* reported. While Pakistan is able to stop such violations, it prefers that no cross-border incidents occur, and it is doing all it can to find a peaceful political solution, the paper pointed out. However, according to Karachi radio, DRA air attacks were also carried out on 26 and 28 November and on 6 December, which drew strong protests from Pakistan to the DRA. Meanwhile, a Pakistani spokesman denied DRA charges of border violations and reiterated Pakistan's policy of not serving as a conduit forsupplying arms to the Afghan mujahidin, the radio added. As for the DRA, its Foreign Ministry rejected the Pakistani charges of airspace violations on 26 November and 1 December, according to Kabul radio.

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Karmal Receives CPSU's Khitrun 9 Dec
LD100057 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Dec 84

[Text] Babrak Karmal, PDPA Central Committee general secretary and DRA Revolutionary Council president, this morning received at Revolutionary Council headquarters Leonid Ivanovich Khitrun, CPSU Central Committee member, Supreme Soviet member, and head of the USSR committee for Supply of Production Equipment for Agriculture. 'Abdol Ghaffar Lakanwal, PDPA Central Committee member and minister of Agriculture and Land Reform, and F.I. Tabeyev, USSR ambassador and representative extraordinary in Kabul, were present at the meeting.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that during the meeting, which was held in a sincere and friendly atmosphere, Babrak Karmal spoke of the Afghan revolutionary state's policy towards mechanizing agriculture to enhance the level of agricultural production and maintain the people of the country, as well as provide the raw materials for Afghanistan's growing industry. He recalled with appreciation the fraternal and selfless aid of the great country of the Soviets in creating the mechanized agricultural stations and aiding the mechanization of the country's agriculture.

In reply, L.I. Khitrun spoke of the Soviet Union's assistance to the DRA, particularly in the area of agriculture and the mechanization of our country's agriculture. In conclusion, the head of the Soviet delegation presented a model of a mecahnized agricultural station to Babrak Karmal, which was accepted with thanks.

Keshtmand Meets Khitrun-Led Delegation 8 Dec
LD082059 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 8 Dec 84

[Text] Soltan Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, met today with Leonid Ivanovich Khitrun, member of the CPSU Central Committee and of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and head of the USSR State Committee for Supply of Production Equipment for Agriculture, at the DRA Council of Ministers headquarters.

During their meeting, they exchanged views in a friendly and cordial atmosphere on reciprocal cooperation between the DRA and the USSR, particularly in the sphere of agriculture. Also present at the meeting were 'Abdol Ghaffar Lakanwal, minister of Agriculture and Land Reform, and Fikryat Ahmed Zhanovich Tabeyev, USSR ambassador to Kabul.

Leonid Ivanovich Khitrun is currently visiting our country as leader of a delegation.

Foreign Ministry Summons Pakistani Envoy 9 Dec
LD091726 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 9 Dec 84

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 1030 today, where the official in charge of the First Political Section pointed out the following matters to him:

The Pakistani authorities have recently claimed that Afghan aircraft entered Pakistani airspace over the Arandu region, Chetral District, on 6 and 11 Qaws [26 November, 1 December] and bombarded the area. They have also claimed that Afghan aircraft entered Pakistani airspace in the Baluchestan region on 11 Qaws [1 December] and subsequently returned to DRA territory.

The DRA authorities, while considering the recent Pakistani authorities' claims completely void of truth and completely reject their basis, once again declare that it would be better if the authorities in Pakistan, instead of unleashing such fabrications and distorting falsehoods, would end their hostile, repeated provocations and armed aggressions against the DRA.

Karmal Receives Message From Mongolia's Batmonh
LD090725 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0441 GMT 9 Dec 84

[Text] Kabul, December 8, BAKHTAR — A message by Jambyn Batmonh, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Mongolian People's Republic, addressed to Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA CC and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, has been received from Ulaanbaatar.

The message is in response to the telegram sent earlier on the occasion of the 60th founding anniversary of Mongolian People's Republic.

The message expresses confidence that the friendly relations between the parties and governments of the two countries will further develop and consolidate in accordance with the spirit of the friendship and cooperation between the two countries, in the interest of the peoples of both countries, and peace and security in the world.

Kabul Youths Volunteer for Armed Forces
LD100403 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Dec 84

[Text] A number of graduates of boys schools in Kabul City voluntarily joined the DRA Armed Forces today.

At a gathering held on the occasion and attended by hundreds of graduate volunteers at the Amani school hall, Fazl Ahmad and Mohammad Moqim, two fathers taking part at the gathering with their sons who had volunteered to become soldiers, said that

under the present circumstances it is the duty of fathers to introduce their sons to DRA Armed Forces organs in order to protect the national honor and the gains of the April revolution.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that Farid Mazdak, first secretary of the DYOA Central Committee, then spoke about the victories of the DRA Armed Forces during the current year. Farid Mazdak noted that in the present situation, when an undeclared war is being waged in our country by imperialism, headed by the United States, our young people not only have great responsibilities but their historical duty demands that they fearlessly defend the homeland and revolution and eliminate the enemy.

The BAKHTAR correspondent adds that Mohammad Rafiq, a graduate of the 12th class of the Omar-e Sahhid school and a volunteer, promised on behalf of the graduates of Kabul City schools to fight to the end for the gains of the April revolution and to repay the motherland by rendering sacred military service.

Clandestine Radio Notes Mujahidin Operations

GF071319 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari 1715 GMT 6 Dec 84

[Excerpt] According to a report, our brother mujahidin attacked an enemy mercenary unit affiliated to the Khalq faction in the province of [name indistinct].

Our Muslim brother mujahidin forces, (?100) in number, were successful in inflicting casualties and losses on the enemy forces. In this clash, about (?30) persons of the (?accursed) Khalqis were killed and some were wounded.

According to reports, some time back our brothers were successful in mining the Pol-e Panjdar district in Qandahar. There an armored tank of the Soviet occupationist forces was destroyed and three of the (?enemy) soldiers were killed.

Reportage on 1-Day General Strike Called by Opposition

300 Injured in Clashes

BK081406 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 8 Dec 84

[Text] In Bangladesh, the 1-day general strike is almost total. According to agency reports, at least 300 people were injured in Dhaka when university students clashed with the police. Six newsmen are also reported injured when police lathi [baton] charged a procession. The call for the strike was given by the main opposition 15- and 7-party alliances in support of their 5-point demands.

All India Radio Dhaka correspondent, Prabhakar Mishra, reports that private vehicles, including rickshaws, are off the road. Shops, markets, and business establishments remained closed today. Train and air services to and from the capital have been suspended. The Indian Airlines has also canceled its Calcutta flight (?from) Dhaka. Life in the capital is almost at a standstill. Students, lawyers, workers, and other organizations have joined the strike. The demands of the opposition include lifting of martial law and holding a parliamentary election under the supervision of a neutral government.

Life 'Normal' Despite Strike

BK081525 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 1430 GMT 8 Dec 84

[Text] Life throughout the country was normal despite a call for a 24-hour strike today by several opposition parties. However, some minor incidents occurred in some places. The attendance of employees at government offices, autonomous organizations, and banks was normal. Vegetable markets and shops were also open in the morning. There was no traffic because of obstructions by unruly people in the capital. The people walked to their places of work.

There was normal work in industries of Tongi, Tezgaon, Demra, Ghorasal, Chittagong, Sylhet, Comilla and Khulna. Loading and unloading work was going on smoothly at the Chittagong port, and normal work was maintained at Narayanganj dockyard. Work started at the Adamji jute mill in the morning, but it was suspended temporarily in view of clashes between opposing groups.

Bangladesh Biman sources reported that during the strike three internal flights took off from Jessore, Chittagong and Sylhet, and two cargo flights to Chittagoing left from Dhaka. Two trains from Sylhet and Akhaura arrived in Dhaka in the morning, and several other trains left the capital in at dawn.

A press note of the Home Ministry said today that the government did not take the step of banning strikes after allowing political activities for the transition to democracy. This is the reason that the political parties opposed to such strikes did not take any step in this regard. But what is evident is that normal life is not only disrupted for repeated strikes; considerable damage is caused to the country's economy due to the stopping of production and the destriction of public and private property.

Delhi: 'Normal Life Paralyzed'

BK081737 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Dec 84

[Excerpt] In Bangladesh, normal life was paralyzed following the 1-day general strike today. According to agency reports, at least 30 people were injured in Dhaka when university students clashed with the police. Six newsmen are also reported injured when police lathi [baton] charged a procession. Demonstrators threw stone at some houses including that of the prime minister, Mr Ataur Rahman Khan.

Government Reiterates Democracy Commitment

BK090342 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 9 Dec 84

[Excerpts] The government has reiterated its firm commitment to bring about a democratic way of life in the country. In a press note issued in Dhaka last night, it also reiterated that no attempt to create chaos and confusion or disrupt national life will be tolerated. The government warned that all unlawful activities will be dealt with firmly. The press note said some political parties gave a call for a 24-hour hartal [strike] till 0600.

(?We are) consciously following a policy of restraint in the interest of political evolution; the government took all precaution against any unlawful activity by the participants of the hartal so that life and properties could be protected.

Some participants of hartal resorted to acts of vandalism and threatened the lives and properties at some places in Dhaka City. They went to the extent of attacking the houses of some political personalities and resorted to brickbatting, causing considerable damage. Timely intervention by the police brought the situation under control. Hand bombs were thrown at a police patrol in front of the arts college in Dhaka. Two police personnel and two photographers were injured. An ambulance with a heart patient was attacked and damaged at Mirpur. Some hartal mongers even raided the house of a teacher of Dhaka University and kept him under confinement in the university campus.

The press note said some unruly elements also attacked the office of the Upazilla Nirvahi Officer [UNO — subdistrict administrative officer] at Sharankhulla in Barihar district and had clashes with the police on duty, injuring an assistant subinspector. The doors and windows of the UNO's office were badly damaged. Police tried to disperse the crowd by lathi [baton] charge but the mob grew violent. In self-defense, the police opened fire in which one person was injured. Situation is now completely normal.

Opposition Announces Disobedience Movement

BK091358 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 9 Dec 84

[Text] In Bangladesh, the two major opposition alliances have announced nonpayment of land revenue, municipal taxes, and boycott of all government-sponsored meetings as a first phase of a civil disobedience movement. The program, which begins today, is aimed at ending martial law in the country.

Meanwhile, at least three people are reported to have been killed in the 24-hour general strike to protest against the martial law yeaterday. More than 100 people have been arrested.

Cooperation With Maldives Discussed in Dhaka

BK061127 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 6 Dec 84

[Text] Bangladesh and Maldives have agreed to strengthen and expand areas of bilateral cooperation. At the first joint committee meeting in Dhaka yesterday, the foreign secretaries of the two countries reviewed the existing state of bilateral relations and decided to strengthen them. The Maldives foreign secretary also discussed various issues relating to the South Asian Regional Cooperation. [SARC] He is the current chairman of the Standing Committee of the SARC. They also discussed the coming Standing Committee meeting to be held in Male, the next foreign ministers' meeting in Bhutan, and the first summit expected to be held in Dhaka next year.

Later, the Maldives foreign secretary, Mr Zaki, called on the adviser for foreign affairs, Mr Humayn Rashid Chowdhury.

'Program of Exchanges' Signed With USSR

BK061125 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 6 Dec 84

[Text] Bangladesh and the Soviet Union have signed a program of exchanges in the fields of science, education, culture and arts, and radio and television for 2 years. The education secretary and the Soviet ambassador signed the program of exchanges on behalf of their governments in Dhaka yesterday. The program was finalized under the existing cultural agreement between the two countries signed in 1972.

Continuing Coverage of Aftermath of Bhopal Gas Leak

Water, Fish Called Safe

BK080928 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 8 Dec 84

[Excerpts] In Bhopal, the Public Health Engineering Department has confirmed that the water being supplied to the city is safe. Officials of the department, who visited different areas, said the water is not contaminated. They also visited the upper lake, where they say the fishes are safe.

As reported earlier, about 25 percent of the Bhopal population was affected by the gas tragedy. The worst affected areas are the old Bhopal City and the places near the factory in a radius of about 1 km. The localities which are reported to be safe on that fateful night were BHEL [Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited] township, T.T. Nagar, Jahangirabad Area Colony, Katra Sultanabad and Jawahar Chowk areas.

The opthalmology adviser said there is no risk of total blindness to the people due to the after effects of the gas leak. A WHO specialist in toxicology is coming to India to help in controlling the impact of the disaster on local residents and environment.

An official spokesman said in Bhopal that some mischief mongers are spreading baseless rumors to create panic among the people. He advised the people not to listen to such rumors. The local station of All India Radio has broadcast appeals asking the people not to be led away by the rumors.

Official on Victim Compensation

BK081305 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 8 Dec 84

[Text] The Madhya Pradesh government is seeking the advice of the attorney general of India on the matter of legal action to be initiated against the multinational Union Carbide for compensation to the gas leak victims. The chief minister, Mr Arjun Singh, is leaving for Delhi this evening for discussion. He told newsmen in Bhopal today that the state government will also provide free legal aid, including waiving of court fee to those who want to file claims against the company. Mr Singh said that six accidents had occurred in the Bhopal unit of the Union Carbide since 1978. All these accidents will be investigated by the inquiry commission set up to probe the gas leakage tragedy.

In reply to a question, the chief minister said that the arrest and the subsequent release of Mr Warren Anderson, chairman of the Union Carbide, were neither preplanned nor under any instructions from the center. It was done only to fulfill the requirements of law.

About the casualty figures in the gas tragedy, Mr Singh said according to the data collected through government agencies, about 1,300 persons and nearly 2,000 animals have died. Lists are being completed to pay adequate compensation to each and every victim of the tragedy, the chief minister added.

Unofficial Toll at 2,250

BK081635 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Dec 84

[Excerpts] The Madhya Pradesh government is seeking the advice of the attorney general of India on the matter of legal action to be initiated against the multinational Union Carbide for compensation to the gas leakage victims. The chief minister, Mr Arjun Singh, told newsmen in Bhopal today that the state government will also provide free legal aid including waiving of court fee to those who want to file claims against the company.

Mr Keshav Mahendra, chairman of the Union Carbide in India and Mr D.P. Gokhale, its Bombay-based managing director, have been remanded to police custody till Monday. Earlier, four other Carbide officials were remanded to the police custody till the 12th of this month.

According to the data collected through the government agencies, about 1,300 persons and nearly 2,000 animals have died. However, PTI quoting unofficial sources says that the death toll has risen to 2,250. Fresh reports of death are still coming in.

Madhya Pradesh Assesses Needs

BK090434 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Dec 84

[Excerpts] The Madhya Pradesh government has constituted special teams to assess the needs of the people affected by the gas tragedy. Official sources said in Bhopal that the survey will be completed in 3 days. They also said that financial assistance has been provided to 4,700 families so far.

Meanwhile, the state chief minister, Mr Arjun Singh, arrived in New Delhi last night for discussions with the attorney general. He will seek the attorney general's advice on legal proceedings against the Union Carbide Company for deciding the compensation to the victims.

The Law Association for Asia and the Western Pacific has also decided to provide legal aid to the families of the victims.

The finance minister, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, has said that action against the company will be taken as per the law of the land. Reacting to the Congress-S demand for dismissal of the Madhya Pradesh ministry, Mr Mukherjee said there is no justification for it. He said the responsibility for the tragedy rests with the company.

Union Carbide's Anderson Departs

BK091609 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Dec 84

[Excerpt] The Central Bureau of Investigation [CBI] has taken over from the Madhya Pradesh police the case against the Union Carbide, the multinational company owning the Bhopal pesticide plant. The home secretary, Madhya Pradesh, told the All India Radio Bhopal correspondent that CBI has taken over the case at

the request of the state government. All relevant documents are being handed over to CBI officials.

Meanwhile, the Union Carbide chairman, Mr Warren Anderson, left New Delhi for Bahrain today by a special plane.

Ban on Carrying Weapons Extended in Amritsar
BK080528 Delhi Domestic Service in Hindi 0230 GMT 8 Dec 84

[Text] The ban on carrying lethal and other weapons has been extended until 5 February in Amritsar district of Punjab. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, this step has been taken as a precautionary measure.

Manipur Chief Minister Escapes Naga Ambush
BK081246 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 8 Dec 84

[Text] Here is a message just received: The Manipur chief minister, Mr Rishang Keishing, escaped unhurt when the outlawed National Socialist Council of Nagaland members ambushed his motorcade at (?Leike), about 60-km from Imphal, this afternoon. PTI, quoting official sources, reports that four Manipur Rifles personnel were killed in the attack.

Attack Under Investigation
BK100404 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 Dec 84

[Text] In Manipur, intensive combing operations are continuing to trace out the miscreants involved in the recent ambush on the chief minister, Mr Rishang Keishing's, motorcade. Night curfew on the India-Burma border continues. Six of the seven security guards injured in the incident are stated to be out of danger. One jawan [soldier] of the Manipur rifles is still in serious condition. Security arrangements have been strengthened.

Armed Group Attacks Nalanda Police Station
BK090752 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 9 Dec 84

[Text] In Bihar, a constable was killed and 2 other policemen were seriously injured when an armed group of about 2 dozen extremists attacked the Parwalpur police station in Nalanda District yesterday with bombs and firearms. The extremists also took away a few rifles after terrorizing the force. The regional inspector general of police told our Patna correspondent today that the constable died on the spot and the injured policemen have been admitted to Patna medical college hospital.

Security Tightened Following Boycott Call
BK101248 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 10 Dec 84

[Text] In West Bengal, security is being tightened following a poll boycott call given by a Naxalite faction of the Communist Party of India-Marxist-Leninist. An official spokesman said in Calcutta a close watch is being kept on the activities of this faction in North Bengal, Nadia, and 24 Pargana districts where it has some influence. Additional armed police pickets will be posed in all these areas to ensure that polling is not disrupted, he added.

Election Countermanded in Andhra Pradesh Seat
BK071614 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Dec 84

[Text] Election in the Srikakulam Lok Sabha constituency in Andhra Pradesh has been countermanded owing the death of an independent candidate. The body of the candidate Mr K. Apanna, was found in a stream at Paikar Ambarpuram village this morning. Local officials are conducting an inquiry into the incident. In all there were five candidates in the field there.

Meanwhile, in Madras police have arrested four persons in connection with the murder of an independent candidate Dr Sriman Talapati. Dr Sriman was a candidate for the Madras North Lok Sabha constituency as well as the Egmore and Perambur assembly constituencies in Tamil Nadu.

1985 Trade Protocol Signed With Soviet Union
BK080736 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 Dec 84

[Text] India and the Soviet Union have signed a trade protocol for next year envisaging a turnover of more than 4,600 crore rupees. This marks an increase of about 20 percent over that of the current year. The protocol was signed in New Delhi yesterday by the Soviet deputy minister for foreign trade, Mr I.G. Grishin, and the commerce secretary, Mr Abid Hussain, at the end of the 4-day trade talk.

The Soviet Union remains India's biggest and most important trading partner. India is expected to export to the Soviet Union products worth 2,500 crore rupees. This would be 500 crore more than in the current year. The imports from the Soviet Union, at over 2,100 crore rupees, would be higher by about 280 crore rupees. While the Indian exports would cover wide-ranging products, machinery, and equipment, crude oil, petroleum products, fertilizers, and newsprint will dominate import.

Japan Willing To Assist Nuclear Energy Program
BK080730 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 Dec 84

[Text] Japan has expressed its willingness to cooperate with India in the field of the nuclear energy program. This was conveyed by the vice president of the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and Industry and leader of the high-level Japanese economic mission, Mr Goro Koyama, during his meeting with the secretary in the Department of Power, Mr S. Venkataraman, in New Delhi yesterday.

Mr Venkataraman welcomed the Japanese consultancy services in the renovation of 35 power stations. Petroleum Secretary Mr A.S. Gill, who also attended the meeting, welcomed Japanese collaboration in the construction of offshore platform, drill ships and allied equipment.

Zia Contacts Iran's President on Hijacking

BK071605 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 Dec 84

[Text] The Pakistani Government is in continuous touch with Iranian and Kuwaiti officials in connection with efforts to ensure the safe release of the remaining Pakistani and other passengers on board the hijacked Kuwait Airways plane which is still standing at Tehran airport. A Foreign Office statement released in Islamabad this evening says that President Mohammad Ziaul Haq sent a message to the Iranian president yesterday telling him that he attaches great importance to the safe and immediate release of the remaining passengers.

The president again contacted the Iranian president's office early this morning and expressed his deep concern over the passengers being held hostage in the hijacked plane and stressed the need for urgent steps to ensure their safe release. The president alsoappreciated the cooperation extended by the Iranian officials in this regard. The president also spoke to Pakistan's ambassador in Tehran and directed him to remain in continuous touch with the Iranian authorities.

Earlier yesterday, the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, sent a message to his Iranian counterpart urging him to intervene in this incident to ensure the security, safety, and immediate release of passengers.

In their reply, the Iranian authorities have expressed regret at the killing of two innocent passengers and once again strongly condemned the hijacking of the plane.

Zia Addresses Rallies on Elections, Referendum

BK081122 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 8 Dec 84

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has reiterated that the process of general elections will be completed before the 23 March next year in accordance with the program announced by him on 12 August last year. Addressing a big public meeting at the Shahiwal stadium today, the president strongly dispelled rumors spread by certain quarters about the coming referendum. False propaganda that elections were being canceled was being carried out in order to create doubts in the minds of innocent people, he said.

Explaining the need for the referendum, the president said it had been felt because it was necessary for the people first to decide about the central structure and the leadership that was to take over the reins of the future government.

Emphasizing the importance of maintaining complete national unity and keeping their house in order in view of the developments around Pakistan, the president pointed out that no one would dare cast an evil eye on Pakistan as long as there was national unity and stability. Internal stability and unity were equally important for an elected and representative government. Pointing out that the raison d'etre of Pakistan's creation was that the people in this separate homeland would be able to fashion their lives in accordance with the dictates of Islam, he said he was confident that in the coming referendum the people would courageously give their verdict.

Later addressing a similar public meeting at Toba Tek Singh, the president cautioned the people against the baseless rumors being spread by certain elements to the effect that the referendum was intended to prolong his tenure or that the rights of women and minorities would be curtailed. The president emphatically declared that the referendum was intended only to seek the verdict of the people as to the type of the government that they wanted to have in this ideological state. As for women, he gave the assurance that they would continue to enjoy the same rights as have been conferred on them by the holy prophet — peace be upon him. Similarly, the minorities would continue to enjoy the full rights and status as the majority community. On arrival, both in Shahiwal and Toba Tek Singh, the president was greeted with slogans of welcome and repeated applause.

Ziaul Haq Explains Referendum Objectives

BK091205 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 9 Dec 84

[Excerpt] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that referendum is a permissible mode of ascertaining public opinion in Islam and it was successfully exercised just before the creation of Pakistan. He was addressing a public gathering in Bahawalpur this morning.

Pointing out that the main objective of the referendum on the 19th of this month was to settle the question of central structure and leadership, he said this would ensure that there was no uncertainty before the general elections. This would also give continuity to the Islamization steps already taken and afford protection to the Islamic ideology. He said ever since he assumed power, he had worked for making Pakistan a model Islamic state. The local bodies system had been revived to provide a firm foundation for the grand Islamic edifice. The president said the very purpose of Pakistan's creation was the promotion of an Islamic order and it had been their endeavor to leave a truly Islamic society for the prosperity. They wanted to settle for all times to come that Islam was never in question in this country.

Reiterating that the referendum was no substitute for general elections, he said the elections would certainly be held according to the program announced by him on August 12 last year. He was confident that in coming general elections people would elect men of integrity and those truly inspired by Islam.

The president again cautioned the people against elements, both within and outside the country, who were averse to the enforcement of Nizam-i-Islam [Islamic system] and thus bent upon striking at the very roots of the country. The president underlined the importance of strictly adhering to the teachings of Islam and maintaining national unity and harmony. Also, while one should stick to one's maslak [rule of conduct], one should also not interfere in the maslak of others. For, while difference of opinion might be there, dissensions could not be allowed.

Afghan Aircraft Violate Airspace 25 Nov, 6 Dec

BK071552 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 Dec 84

[Text] The aircraft of the Afghanistan's Babrak Karmal regime violated Pakistan's airspace four times on 25 November and yesterday. In the first airspace violation on 25 November, an Afghan jet aircraft intruded 2 miles into Pakistan's airspace in the north of Parachinar at 1436 [0936 GMT]; just an hour after that violation, two Afghan jet aircraft penetrated 5 miles into Pakistan's airspace west of Teri Mangal in the Parachinar area.

The Karmal administration's aircraft violated Pakistan's airspace twice yesterday. The first violation came at 0920 when an Afghan transport aircraft flew over Karlachi south of Parachinar; about an hour later, two Afghan jet aircraft flew over Arandu, violating Pakistan's airspace. These planes dropped 10 bombs and some rockets.

Pakistan has strongly protested to the Afghan charge d'affaires against the unprovoked violation of its airspace and the bombardment of its territory by Afghan planes. Pakistan has also condemned these violations, which may seriously worsen the atmosphere. The Afghan charge d'affaires has been told to convey to the Kabul authorities that they should refrain from taking steps that may bring about serious consequences in connection with maintaining peace and stability in the region.

The UN secretary general has also been informed of the details of these violations.

Spokesman on DRA Border Violations, India Talks

BK081733 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 8 Dec 84

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad has strongly denied the charge of the Kabul authorities that Pakistan has made wrong allegations of border violations from that side. He said, in fact, there have been serious violations on many occasions involving bombing, strafing, and rocketing from the Afghan side. There have been spate of such violations during the Geneva talks in August last and also at the time of visits by foreign dignitaries.

In reply to a question, the spokesman said that Kabul authorities were falsely accusing Pakistan of carrying out border violations. He reiterated Pakistan's policy not to act a a conduit for supply of arms to Afghan mujahidin.

Asked about the possibility of holding Indo-Pakistan talks, he said we hope the talks would be held after elections in India.

Government Rejects DRA Shelling Allegation

BK091730 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 9 Dec 84

[Text] Pakistan today lodged a strong protest with the Afghan charge d'affaires in Islamabad against yet another violation of its airspace by two Afghan jet aircraft on the 28th of last month. The aircraft entered Pakistan's territory 5 miles northwest of (Palezai) in Mohmand Agency and penetrated the airspace by 9 miles. The Afghan charge d'affaires was told that repeated acts of provocations from the Afghanistan side would have serious repurcussions on the peace and stability in the region. He was asked to convey Pakistan's [word indistinct] to the authorities in Kabul to stop these unprovoked violations, failing which Pakistan reserves the right to defend its territorial integrity with all the means at its command. The UN secretary general has also been apprised of the details of the latest violations committed from the Afghanistan side.

The Government of Pakistan has rejected as totally false and baseless the allegation from the Kabul authorities that Pakistan had fired across the border toward Barikowt in Konarha Province and Jazi area of the province with heavy and long-range weapons on three consecutive nights beginning on the 30th of last month. The Afghan charge d'affaires in Islamabad was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday and informed that it was regrettable that the Kabul authorities persisted in leveling the allegations, which did not have any iota of truth. The details of Pakistan's denial have been conveyed to the UN secretary general.

MASHRIQ Comments on Northwest Border Situation

GF091920 Karachi MASHRIQ in Urdu 5 Dec 84 p 3

[Editorial: "Situation on the Northwest Border"]

[Text] Afghan aircraft violated Pakistani airspace at two different places on 1 December: The first time it was at 1000 when 6 Afghan jets dropped 24 bombs on a village in Chitral District; they also fired rockets at this village, but there was no loss of life. The second violation was at 1600 when three Afghan aircraft attacked Imam Bostan in Nushki District of Baluchistan. These aircraft were forced to turn back by antiaircraft fire from the Pakistani Armed Forces.

The Afghan charge d'affairs was summoned to the foreign office and handed a strong protest over these violations. He was told that the Pakistani Government has taken serious notice of these continued unprovoked violations and that Pakistan will take the necessary steps to safeguard its security. The Kabul regime was also informed that they should not create further tension on the border because it would harm the peace and stability in the region.

Afghanistan has made it a routine matter to violate the airspace of Pakistan, and it was not only Pakistan but the entire world community that has expressed its deep concern over these incidents.This is because if a clash takes place on the Afghan-Pakistani border as a result of these violations, the peace and stability of the entire region will be endangered. To avoid such a situation, Pakistan has taken extraordinary precautions. But there is a limit to everything. This time the Pakistani Armed Forces had to intervene by using their antiaircraft guns to force the aircraft back .

In the future, Pakistan will be justified in using force against force to prevent airspace violations, and the Kabul administration will be responsible for any consequences. Undoubtedly,

Pakistan is in a position to stop these Afghan violations by force, but it sincerely wishes that no untoward incident should take place on our border. There are two reasons for Pakistan's precautions: First, Pakistan considers that clashes and confrontations are against the peace and stability of the region. Besides, Pakistan has no dispute with Afghanistan and it does not want to kill innocent Afghan nationals by using force against force. Second, Pakistan is doing all it can to help find a peaceful political solution to the problem. A clash can wipe out all these efforts.

In any case, it does not rest with Pakistan only to stop any such confrontation. If the Karmal administration starts creating unrest over the border, then Pakistan's precautions and patience will be of no use. Therefore, as a nation, we should think seriously about any serious consequences and we should take all necessary steps to safeguard the security of our homeland. The first duty of the general public is that they should be completely unified and should not allow hostile elements to carry out their designs against the country. The puppet Kabul regime prefers internal sabotage to an open confrontation. It is for this reason that it has already sent armed saboteurs to Pakistan after giving them the necessary training. The pro-Moscow and pro-Kabul elements in the country have started chanting slogans to harm our national unity. Some extremists, after failing in their plans, are trying to fan the flames of unrest. In such a situation, our security depends upon our vigilance and our striving for unity in our ranks. We should not pay any heed to the misleading slogans. We should keep a watchful eye on the plots of the hostile elements.

112 Al-Zulfiqar Members Arrested in NWFP

GF071220 Karachi DAWN in English 2 Dec 84 p 2

[Text] Peshawar, Dec. 1 — NWFP Governor Lt-Gen. Fazle Haq said here on Saturday that in all 112 Al-Zulfiqar terrorists had been arrested in the NWFP, and they would be tried in military courts.

Talking to newsmen, the governor said adequate measures had been taken to protect the life and property of people, and that the terrorists would be given an exemplary punishment.

The government was maintaining vigilance and so far had been successful in its efforts. There was non reason for people to worry, he said.

SRI LANKA

Premadasa Urges Discussion of Domestic Problems

BK081112 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 8 Dec 84

[Text] No problem in the world has been solved through massacre. Problems could be solved only through discussion. The prime minister, who made these statements, urged that all those who had believed in arms should lay down their arms and agree to discussion. The prime minister was speaking at Yatiyantota this morning, where he inaugurated a new program — that of the mobile office, which will operate through model villages.

Speaking further, Mr Premadasa stated that the only way to meet the provocative strategy of the terrorists in the north was to take the administrative machinery to the grassroots level. The development councils and Gramodiya Mandaliyas [village organizations] were initiated for this purpose. He stressed that the government had no intention of excluding any area of the country from this program. The second phase of the program has been started today and will be implemented either in the north or in the east of the country.

Speaking further on the current situation in the country, the prime minister noted that certain sections who did not believe in discussions had made use of the tense situation prevailing in the country to embark on the path of criminality. Certain external forces who wish to see the downfall of this country are making use of this situation. These forces provide arms and protection to those bent on destruction. They also instigate them. Mr Premadasa, who referred to the terrorists as out-and-out criminals, said that they were under the influence of narcotics and external forces. He added that the people of this country are ready to make any sacrifice in order to solve this problem. The members of the sangha [Buddhist religious organizations] and of other religious denominations have also extended their support.

Internal Security Ministry Calls Up Home Guards

BK091158 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 9 Dec 84

[Text] The Ministry of Internal Security has sent out instructions to all district watch committees, superintendents of police divisions, and officers in charge of police stations to mobilize Home Guards in their respective areas to protect civilians and safeguard public and private property. Vigilance societies under the auspices of the Home Guards will be activated by each police station in the city of Colombo, Nobelkota, Maharagama, Dehiwala, Mount Lavinia and Moratuwa in accordance with the plan already in existence. The Home Guards will assist in the maintenance of law and order. The wardens and subwardens in particular will assist the police in emergency situation and during curfew hours. They will wear a badge of identification when on duty.

Citizens are encouraged to form vigilance societies in their neighborhood with the help of the local police. These societies will be required to assist the police in maintaining law and order under the auspices of the Home Guard. Those desirous of forming these vigilance societies may seek the assistance of the officers in charge of their local police stations for this purpose. A police unit for the Home Guard has been established to deal with all such matters. The unit is headed by Senior Superintendent of Police S.B. Senaratane.

Athulathmudali Urges Tamils To Oppose Terrorism

BK101124 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 10 Dec 84

[Text] The minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, has called upon the Tamil people to speak out against terrorism. The minister, who was speaking at a function held at the Nedimale stadium at Dehiwala yesterday, said that the Tamil people should openly disavow separatism and accept the unitary status of the country. This could be done in two ways. They could either make this fact known to their friends in their workplaces or join vigilance committees in their areas. Through this action, they would be able to dispel the fear and suspicions among the majority community.

Mr Athulathmudali emphasized that if the terrorists agreed to find solutions to their problems through discussions and in a peaceful manner, there would have been no need for the use of arms against them. He stressed that the death of any person was a loss to the country. He also said that all communities could live together once terrorism was eliminated.

Spokesman Denies Foreign News Reports of Incidents

BK071402 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 7 Dec 84

[Text] Government has denied several news reports in the local press and in dispatches sent by foreign correspondents now in Sri Lanka regarding incidents alleged to have occurred in certain areas in the north and in other parts of the country. The denial came from the chairman of the media committee, Dr Wickrema Weerasooria, who addressed a news conference at the Ministry of Defense this morning. Both local and foreign media personel were present at the conference.

The first report received by the government as false was that which said that the district judge of Nuwara Eliya was attacked and that shots have been fired at his residence. Dr Weerasooria said that the government agent [of] Nuwara Eliya had telephoned him this morning and said that there was no such incident. What actually happened was that a watcher had reported to the police that two suspicious characters had been seen in the area. Police made attempts to apprehend these persons, but they could not be (? chased).

Another report claimed four people were killed following the shooting of a trawler in the northern waters. This news is not factually correct. A message received from the security forces said that four persons have been taken into custody by the Navy operating from the Gurunagar camp. They were found on an Indian fishing trawler, which was very much in Sri Lankan territorial waters. Three of them are of Indian origin. They are

to be brought to Colombo and arrangements would be made to send them back to India. The Foreign Ministry is expected to make an announcement regarding the matter.

Dr Weerasooria also said that foreign news broadcasts had alleged that 17 people have been killed by the terrorists when they set fire to a bus near Cheddkulam in the Mannar District. This report is totally incorrect.

Government also denied reports that the Army went on a rampage and killed several civilians as their convoy was attacked by terrorists in Mannar on Tuesday.

The chairman of the media committee told newsmen present at today's briefing that there was no truth in the story that government was considering taking action against some foreign media personnel for dispatching a false report on the present situation in the country, nor was the government contemplating imposing of censorship or any other form of control on news. However, Dr Weerasooria cautioned newsmen, particularly foreign correspondents, to act with responsibility and reflect the truth in the current situation. He said that it was the intention of foreign personnel to cater to sensationalism. They should refrain from doing so at the expense of Sri Lanka. He said that news reports could be as (?bad) as the menace of terrorism, which the country is faced with today.

He emphasized that the country's security forces were quite capable of meeting the military challenge of the terrorists.

There has been no trace of the bodies of the kidnapped victims as yet. Dr Wickrema Weerasooria said that this was an important and crucial matter, which was handled personally by the minister of national security. He said that any development on this issue will be announced by the minister himself.

56 Suspected Terrorists Jailed in Jaffna
BK071319 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1247 GMT 7 Dec 84

[Text] Only a few minor incidents have been reported in the country since yesterday. In Jaffna, a jeep belonging to the health services is reported to have been stolen. A Toyota car bearing registration number 636857 belonging to the Jaffna District Council was also stolen by armed terrorists. Armed terrorists had also attacked two more fishing barges in the Mullaitivu police area. As a result of the attack one Sinhala female was killed. A man with a serious (? head injury) is now hospitalized. Another person is reported to be missing. The Vavuniya police are in control of the area.

There were no reports of any incident in Mannar and Trincomalee yesterday.

In the Jaffna District, security forces had taken 56 terrorist suspects into custody following a combing out operation in the area. At the Yanyankota police recovered 6 empty rounds of revolver ammunition at a house on an estate in the area. It is believed that the occupant had left the estate about 2 years ago. Investigations carries out by the security services revealed that this person is now in army custody in Vavuniya.

Security Forces Arrest Terrorists in Jaffna
BK090200 Colombo Overseas Service in Hindi 0130 GMT 9 Dec 84

[Text] In their major crackdown, security forces arrested about 200 terrorists yesterday from 3 camps located in the Kaitadi area of Jaffna District. They said a large quantity of military uniforms, shoes, accessories for guns, ammunition, bombs, and Eelam literature were recovered.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation that, according to security forces, the ambushes were successful because the curfew prevented the terrorists from escaping from the three jungle hideouts.

Gang of Terrorists Arrested, Brought to Colombo
BK100214 Colombo Overseas Service in Hindi 0130 GMT 10 Dec 84

[Text] Sri Lankan security forces were successful in arresting a large gang of terrorists in yet another crackdown yesterday. According to the National Defense Ministry, in this venture about 100 terrorists were arrested. They were brought to Colombo with tight security. Mr Athulathmudali said that the 42-hour curfew imposed in Jaffna was helpful in this action.

Government Releases Figures on Terrorist Attacks
BK071630 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Dec 84

[Text] Government has released the details regarding the number of security personnel, public officials, and civilians killed as a result of terrorist activities. A total of 296 people have died since the current wave of terrorist attacks began on the 19th of last month. The number of security personnel killed amounts to 58 while the number of civilians killed by terrorists in the northern and eastern provinces amounts to 238. These details were disclosed by the chairman of the media committee, Dr Wickrema Weerasooria.

The number of deaths prior to the current outbreak of terrorist violence amounts to 278. Of this total, 205 were civilians killed by terrorists on the grounds that they were informants or did not support their cause. The majority of these people were criminals. Seven public officials were killed, mainly in the Jaffna police division. The number of security forces killed totaled 66.

61-Hour Curfew Imposed in Jaffna, Kilinochchi

BK101056 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 10 Dec 84

[Text] A 61-hour curfew has been imposed in Jaffna and Kilinochchi Districts. The curfew, which will begin in these two districts at 1700 today, Monday the 10th, will be lifted at 0600 on Thursday the 13th. A curfew will be in operation from 0600 today, Monday the 10th, to 0600 tomorrow, Tuesday the 11th, in several other districts. They are Mannar, Vavuniya, Mullattivu and Batticaloa.

The curfew in the [word indistrinct] division of Tirukkovil and Akkaraipattu of the Ampara District will be in operation from 1800 today till 0600 tomorrow.

India Cautions Terrorists Against Attacks

BK100337 Colombo Overseas Service in Hindi 0130 GMT 10 Dec 84

[Text] The Indian Government has cautioned the northern terrorists against indulging in armed attacks and terrorist activities against the Sri Lankan Army and police [words indistinct]. This important news was contained in *THE HINDU* of last Friday [7 December]. This may be the first time that the Indian Government has (?warned) northern terrorists. The report was written by Mr G.K. Reddy, who is regarded as a journalist of the Southern group of newspapers reflecting government opinion.

According to this report, the Indian Government has sought the help of friendly nations to stop the violence in Sri Lanka. The report did not mention whether the terrorists were contacted in Tamil Nadu or Sri Lanka. They were warned to give up fighting Sri Lankan forces.

Imam Khomeyni Holds Talks With Visitors

IRGC Commander, Supreme Council

LD091129 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1035 GMT 9 Dec 84

[Text] The commander and all members of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], accompanied by Mr Mahallati, the imam's representative to the IRGC, were this morning received in audience by the leader of the Islamic Revolution and commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces [Khomeyni]; they held talks with the imam of the nation.

Ayatollah Montazeri

LD101132 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Dec 84

[Text] On the eve of the auspicious birthday of the great prophet of Islam, His Great Eminence Mohammad Ebn-e 'Abdollah, may God's peace and salutations be upon him and his scion, and on the anniversary of the auspicious birthday of His Great Eminence Imam Ja'far Sadeq, peace be upon him, this morning the Grand Ayatollah Montazeri met with Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He held talks with the imam of the nation on various issues.

After meeting the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Eminence the Grand Ayatollah Montazeri met with Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly. In the course of this meeting issues relates to the war, current affairs of the state, and the Islamic Majlis were discussed and views were exchanged.

Velayati Returns From Hungary, Comments on Hijacking

GF090706 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 9 Dec 84

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who was on a visit to Hungary, returned to Tehran last night and was received by Foreign Ministry officials.

In an interview with our correspondent on his return, he said that his visit to Hungary took place at the invitation of Mr Varkonyi, the Hungarian foreign minister, who had visited Iran last year. Mr Velayati added: During the trip to Hungary, meetings and talks were held with the high-ranking authorities of the country including the president, prime minister, foreign trade minister, and the economic affairs minister of Hungary. In these meetings, relations between the two countries were discussed, assessed, and analyzed and it was agreed that the next session of the joint Iran-Hungary Commission would be held in the coming Farvardin month [21 March - 21 April] with the participation of the Hungarian economic affairs minister and the Iranian agricultural minister.

Mr Velayati said: Relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Hungary have expanded greatly since the Islamic Revolution, expanding from the level of a charge d'affaires to the setting up of an embassy and the appointment of an ambassador in Budapest. He added that Iran and Hungary hold unanimity of views on most political problems. The two countries have thus far enjoyed coordination in the international community. On the whole, the trip yielded useful results.

In response to our correspondent's questions, on the hijacking of a Kuwaiti airliner now at Tehran's airport and the efforts and measures of the Islamic Republic of Iran's authorities to solve this problem, Mr Velayati said: As we have repeatedly announced, we are violently opposed to such acts, under whatever name, or by any group or individual, because these are opposed to all religious and humanitarian norms. He added: In view of the ceaseless efforts of the Islamic Republic's authorities, a large number of passengers have been freed so far and we are hopeful that this incident will conclude with a peaceful compromise.

Reportage on Velayati Visit

For coverage of the visit by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to Hungary, including reports on his talks with Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Varkonyi, Premier Gyorgy Lazar, and Pal Losonczi, president of the Hungarian Presidential Council, see the Hungary section of the 6 December Eastern Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

President Holds Meetings With Velayati, Gharazi

LD090959 Tehran IRNA in English 0946 GMT 9 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 9, IRNA — The Foreign Affairs Minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who returned from a visit to Hungary Saturday, in a meeting with President 'Ali Khamene'i here this morning presented the cordial message of Hungarian President Pal Losonczi to him.

During the meeting, Velayati reported to the president on his talks with the Hungarian president, prime minister and foreign affairs minister and other officials of the country.

In a separate meeting this morning, Minister Mohammad Gharazi met and talked with the president during which he reported on the situation in the oil market, possibilities in international trade and bilateral trade with other countries.

The president discussed international policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran concerning oil exports and the purchase of goods and gave necessary guidelines for these policies.

Meanwhile, President Khamene'i Saturday night received Hojjat ol-Eslam Akhtari, representative of the office of Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri in universities who reported to him on the three-day seminar on unity of theological schools and universities, to open at Tehran University Dec. 18.

The president welcomed the holding of the seminar and gave the necessary guidelines.

Meets With Naval Commander

LD081424 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Dec 84

[Text] Captain Hoseyni, commander of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was received by Mr Khamene'i, president of the republic and chief of the Supreme Defense Council, before noon today.

In this meeting, the Navy commander declared the full readiness of the naval forces; he presented a report to the president on the naval forces and the security measures carried out in the Persian Gulf region as well as the operations undertaken toward the achievement of self-sufficiency. President Khamene'i issued the necessary instructions related to topics which were presented and discussed.

Prime Minister Sends Condolences Message to Gandhi

LD080700 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 8 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi has sent a message of condolences to Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi concerning the poisonous gas leak from the American Union Carbide factory in Bhopal that has resulted in the death of thousands and injury to many more.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Describes End of Hijacking

GF100620 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 10 Dec 84

[Text] According to reports by correspondents of the Central News Unit in Mehrabad airport, at 2350 the passengers of the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner were released as a result of the efforts of the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran and as a result of a series of special military operations. The hijackers were arrested.

According to reports, the hijackers had asked for dinner at 2130 last night and at 2310 they asked for a power charger. A member of the special military operation immediately positioned himself under the aircraft along with the person handling the power charger. At 2350 the hijackers requrested a doctor for a heart patient in the aircraft. At this time a special agent entered the aircraft unarmed posing as a doctor. Moments later, they asked for service men and two other agents arrived posing as cleaners. While entering the aircraft, they pushed the man who was standing on the stairs down after disarming him. Then, a man entered the aircraft posing as the person in handling the power charger; together with the agent posing as the doctor who was already within the aircraft waiting for the start of the operation, they immediately began disarming two of the hijackers. Then, using a smoke bomb, they also disarmed the fourth hijacker who was in the cockpit.

Thus, after several days of worry and concern, the saga of the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner came to an end through a series of brave operations by the special task force for military operations of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

An official of the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran arrived at Mehrabad Airport following the successful operations of the special task force and made the following comment: The Kuwaiti Airways airbus was hijacked at 0330 last Tuesday. As it entered Iranian airspace, our fighters intercepted it. However, moments later the pilot contacted the control tower at Mehrabad saying that a hijacker was threatening to kill him. We immediately informed them that all Iranian airports were closed to them. The aircraft continued its course and arrived over Tehran. At 0500 they announced that they were running low on fuel and we allowed them to land in order to avert the danger of a crash.

The official added: At the start of the saga we announced that we opposed hijackings and that this action was contrary to our policies. We allowed the aircraft to land at Tehran airport solely to save the lives of 155 passengers and 11 crew members. Since the aircraft was Kuwaiti, we immediately informed officials at the Kuwaiti Embassy of the situation and started necessary movements around the aircraft and discussions with the hijackers. We requested the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in this respect who came to the airport. From the start we tried to coordinate all activities with them. The hijackers, in their contacts with the airport control tower, asked for discussions with Kuwaiti officials at Tehran airport but this was rejected. However, the Kuwaiti interior minister talked to them through the airport control tower in Kuwait. In the afternoon of the first day, Kuwait sent an aircraft to take the passengers back to Kuwait should they be released. The same night it was announced that the aircraft flying toward Tehran was carrying officials of the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry and four medical teams. On the morning of the first day [as heard] the Kuwaiti officials came to the control tower on the basis of a request by the hijackers and talked with them. This led to a verbal fight and the discussions were not successful.

Iranian officials proposed two ways of solving the problem: 1. To hold discussions and negotiations as a go-between to coordinate the demands of the hijackers and government policies.
2. To carry out military operations providing the Kuwaiti Government accepted responsibility for the operation.
The session selected the peaceful solution. Discussions were carried out and the women and children were released in two stages. Kuwait was also informed of the hijackers' demands and their deadline. Unfortunately, despite the activities of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the necessary coordination and activity was not observed on the part of the Kuwaiti Government.

They showed indifference toward the freedom of the passengers and left Tehran without any explanation. However, we tried to obtain the release of the passengers in stages and to delay the implementation of the hijackers' threats. We did this at times by irritating them or pampering them. He added: Considering the harsh conditions within the aircraft, had the Islamic Republic not taken such steps, what would have happened to the 153 passengers [figure as heard]?

One of the amazing points in the international propaganda was that they deliberately did not mention the efforts of the Islamic Republic. If there is a question about why we did not resort to a military operation sooner, we give the following reasons for not doing so:

1. We tried to release the passengers as soon as possible through peaceful means.
2. We wanted to tire out the hijackers.
3. We wanted to collect the necessary and reliable information needed to carry out a successful operation. We collected this information through the crew, the doctor, and other people going to the aircraft and returning.
4. We needed the necessary political and propaganda atmosphere to accept possible losses. If, God forbid, the operations had cost lives, considering the animosity of the international oppression toward the Islamic Republic of Iran, they would have carried out extensive propaganda against us.
5. We gradually managed to obtain the trust of the hijackers which created a favorable atmosphere for the final operations.

He added: When the hijackers announced at 1400 that they would blow up the plane as their final act, the atmosphere in the aircraft became critical. A Kuwaiti official arrived at the tower and talked with the hijackers. One of the passengers said on the radio that the hijackers had wired the explosives and were ready to blow up the plane. We announced an emergency condition and closed the airport. Fire engines and ambulances were put on alert. We felt at the time that there was no further use in pursuing peaceful means and that the grounds were prepared for special operations.

A session was convened in which the Syrian ambassador, Kuwaiti charge, and the ambassadors of Pakistan and Switzerland were present. Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam [Foreign Ministry under secretary] informed them of the decision of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding a military operation and asked them to inform their respective governments of this.

Neighboring Governments, UN Informed

LD100828 Tehran IRNA in English 0813 GMT 10 Dec 84

[Excerpts] Tehran, Dec. 10, IRNA — An informed source at Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs told IRNA here today that a few hours prior to the storming of the Kuwaiti airliner by Iranian security men, Syrian, Saudi Arabian, Kuwaiti, Pakistani and U.N. officials had been informed of the operation. "They were informed in order to be in the current of any probable loss and damage," the source said, adding "fortunately the operation ended with no passengers being hurt."

An American passenger of the hijacked plane, 50-year-old John Costa, [who] had been handcuffed to his seat by the hijackers, was also freed after the operation. The Sunday night operation took place at a time when British and American experts of crash operations had rejected the success of such an operation.

Khamene'i Message to Syria's Al-Asad Criticizes Kuwait

LD081141 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Dec 84

[Text] In response to a message from Mr Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, the following message was sent by Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful:

My dear brother, His Excellency Mr Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, peace be upon you!

I received your message in connection with the hijacked Kuwaiti aircraft. In addition to thanking you, it is necessary that I should inform Your Excellency that the Islamic Republic of Iran and the officials concerned have sought a solution to this problem by carrying out the maximum efforts and through round-the-clock endeavors and have placed all their capabilities and facilities at the disposal of the Kuwaiti officials and have expressed to the Kuwaiti Government their readiness to continue negotiations with the aircraft hijackers or to take any other appropriate action which would culminate in solving this problem. Regrettably, the Kuwaiti Government has not done their utmost to achieve a peaceful settlement of this issue. I hope that with Your Excellency's efforts we will be able to obtain a final and peaceful soluton of this issue at long last.

[Signed] Your brother, Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran 8 December 1984.

Presidential Adviser Mir-Salim Criticizes Kuwait

LD091125 Tehran IRNA in English 1102 GMT 9 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 9, IRNA — The presidential advisor, Mustafa Mir-Salim who is commissioned by President 'Ali Khamene'i to follow up the issue of hijacked Kuwaiti jetliner, today criticised the stance adopted by the Kuwaiti Government and Parliament.

Interviewed by IRNA he said that the Islamic Republic of Iran has placed a great importance on saving the lives of the passengers of the plane and has used all its efforts to prevent any violent action and bring the dilemma to a peaceful end.

To this end, the Islamic Republic of Iran welcomed the Kuwaiti delegation and hoped that through their presence the issue end. [as received] "Unfortunately the Kuwaiti delegation, without giving any special view, left Tehran," he told IRNA.

The Islamic Republic of Iran due to its adherence to humanitarian values and with respect to the situation inside the plane, will carry out the proper and necessary measures.

"The lack of cooperation by the Kuwaiti officials inevitably shows their lack of concern towards their responsibility in this respect," Mir-Salim added.

He further added that the Islamic Republic of Iran welcomed the arrival of the Kuwaiti delegation because they could be in touch with the hijackers. The delegation was stationed at the airport and established contacts with the hijackers through the control tower and followed the developments in the incident and passed them on to Kuwait.

After being appointed by the president to follow up the matter, Mr-Salim said on the request of the Kuwaiti delegation he held two lengthy meetings with them to discuss the possible solutions.

From the beginning Iran had and has full readiness intervene military [as received], however, he added. There is evidence that since such a measure would put the lives of the passengers at risk, the Kuwaiti officials opposed it.

The second option was to solve the matter through negotiations. Due to the greater chance of success in the second option, the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran have mobilised all their efforts ceaselessly. However, he added, these efforts called for cooperation of the Kuwaitis.

As an outcome of the efforts of Foreign Ministry officials so far 146 of the passenger and crew members of the plane have been freed. However, due to the nominal effort of the Kuwaiti delegation, including their refusal to respond to requests of the hijackers, the issue has lasted for six days, even though we hoped that it would be solved much sooner. The prolongation of the issue has made the passengers to suffer a great deal.

Freedom of 146 of the passengers and crew members of the plane, he said, was the outcome of the continuous and delicate efforts of the Iranian officials.

In connection with coverage of the incident by imperialist dominated media, he said by blowing the issue out of proportion, they aim to cover up the tragedy of Bhopal, India, the responsibility of which he said rests directly on the U.S.

On the stance of the Kuwaiti Government and Parliament which has left the responsibility of the issue solely with Iran, he said that they too have been responsible for the lives of the passengers and the crew members of the plane. However, by taking such a stance, he said, they have been trying to shirk their own responsibility towards the issue.

At the end he pointed out that the Kuwaiti officials could have been more helpful through their cooperaiton with the Iranian officials to bring the issue to an end.

Mir-Salim on Reagan's Remarks

LD081134 Tehran IRNA in English 1115 GMT 8 Dec 84

[Excerpts] Tehran, Dec. 8, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i's adviser Mustafa Mir-Salim, appointed by the president to follow up the issue of the hijacked Kuwaiti jetliner, Saturday stressed "all our effort is concentrated to end the ordeal without any loss and damage." Mr-Salim further denied claims that a finger of one of the passengers was chopped off and thrown outside the plane. However, he added, since the ordeal is now in its fifth day, it is obvious that the passengers have suffered a great deal. All these propaganda, he stressed, aimed at tarring the image of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has not fallen short of any action to solve the issue.

On the statement of the American President who has said that Iran was in sympathy with the hijackers, Mir-Salim said that he did not consider it worthy of analysis and added it showed that the U.S. President had been provided with biased and incomplete information.

Friday Imam Speaks on Foreign Policy, Hijacking

LD071227 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Dec 84

[Excerpts] On the 2d day of Unity Week, millions of our Muslim compatriots throughout the country observed the religious-political glorious Friday prayer ceremonies. Tehran University and the surrounding thoroughfares were the venue for Tehran's Muslim revolutionary citizens in the unifying Friday prayers ceremony. They observed this eternal Muslim tradition under the imamate of Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani.

In his second sermon, expounding the foreign policy principles of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani said: The imam once graciously said: Certain people say that we should only have ties with nations and not governments; this is not correct. The imam has repeatedly graciously said that we do not wish to fight any country; we wish to have relations with any country that refrains from subjecting us to political, cultural, or economic exploitation. The imam has commanded: We should not be isolated! Therefore, we proclaim to our Muslim brethren throughout the world that we continue to extend our hand of brotherhood on condition that they too behave toward us with sincerity. Instead of fearing the United States, they fear Islam, the revolution and Muslims.

Tehran's temporary Friday imam, referring to the problem of the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner, then said: We oppose such actions, and under no circumstances will we accept them. Islam does not permit innocent humans, including women and children, to be terrorized. The regional rulers who, in various telegrams, request our country's president to solve this problem should give us reasons why they did not send telegrams of this nature at the time our aircraft were hijacked. Why do they say nothing while subjecting Persian Gulf shipping to attack? One should ask them why they do not look for the causes.

We oppose aircraft hijacking, yet they provided every possible cooperation with the hijackers of our aircraft and placed everything demanded by the aircraft hijackers at their disposal.

Radio Nejat-e Iran on Official Complicity in Hijacking

GF091710 (Clandestine) Radio Nejat-e Iran in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Dec 84

[Excerpts] The mullahs of the Tehran regime have asked their friends in the Syrian regime to save Khomeyni's Islamic Republic from further embarassment surrounding the calamity of the Kuwaiti airliner hijacking. This morning, two Syrian aircraft arrived at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport. Informed sources said that one aircraft carried a special envoy of Hafiz al-Asad while the other one carried dozens of Syrian commandos. NBC television reported last night that Al-Asad had ordered one of his close advisors to go to Tehran and help end the Kuwaiti airliner hijacking peacefully.

Around 4 hours after the arrival of the Syrian aircraft, the Kuwaiti airliner hijackers announced that they had wired their explosives and would blow up the Kuwaiti airbus if the Kuwaiti Government continued to oppose their demands.

One of our correspondents in Tehran, who has his special news sources, reports that Mir-Salim, Jalaleddin Farsi, and Mohsen Rezai'e are the main designers of this horrific tragedy according to documents they have uncovered. These agents of the regime who are charged with the implementation of the satanic plan by Khomeyni and his colleagues have been present in the communications center at Mehrabad Airport since the Kuwaiti airliner arrived in Tehran and have been secretly directing the operations. Our correspondent, quoting these informed sources, added that the plan to hijack the Kuwaiti airliner and the political and propaganda use of the event was designed by (?eight) leaders of the regime. As a result, there has been some strong exchanges of words among the various opposing factions of the mullahs' regime.

According to our correspondent, during a special session in 'Ali Khamene'i's office yesterday afternoon to look into the hijacking, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Hoseyn Musavi, and 'Ali Khamene'i had a verbal battle. A very informed source revealed that if the entire scenario is carried out according to the plans of the mullahs, the terrorists of Khomeyni's Islamic Republic will carry out three other plans in the western United States, southern Europe and the Persian Gulf. Apparently the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner is a pilot operation or an experiment for the forthcoming three plans of the Islamic regime.

Majlis Speaker Urges IRGC To Avoid Politics

LD080729 Tehran IRNA in English 0723 GMT 8 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 8, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) has been the main element of resistance against all plots including coups, terrorism and war which has been waged against the Islamic Revolution. He said, too, that the IRGC has had a spiritual role in the society in encouraging the Islamic movement of the people.

Speaking in a meeting with prosecutor and religious judges of the IRGC, he said the enemies of the revolution such as the United States State Department, the CIA and "Israel's" intelligence organisations try to give the IRGC a bad name in attempts to isolate it, and the ulema, from the people.

The Majlis speaker also urged the Revolution's Guards to keep away from party politics and said the last election proved the words of Imam Khomeyni that the Armed Forces should not enter political issues.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Communiques

No 1,934

LD071808 Tehran IRNA in English 1800 GMT 7 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 7, IRNA — Iraqi armoured and infantry units as well as artillery positions were zeroed in on by the heavy gun and artillery fire of the Islamic combatants in the north western fronts during the past 24 hours.

Announcing this, the Joint Staff Command Communique No. 1934 issued today, further said that the enemy sustained human and material losses in these fronts. Iraqi patrol movements were thwarted and the movement of their armoured units and flights of helicopters were all controlled by Islamic combatants in these regions.

In the southern fronts, considerable casualties were inflicted upon the enemy during the said period, added the communique.

The engineering activities of the enemy were disturbed and several of their positions set ablaze in the southern fronts of Arvand River. About 10 Iraqi troops were killed or wounded in these fronts.

In the northwestern fronts, exchange of fire was more fierce in Panjwin and Marivan, in the western fronts in Sumar, and in southern fronts in Kushk and Shahrani.

Abadan was under Iraqi sporadic long-range fire, as a result of which a civilian was wounded and a car, 10 houses and shops were damaged, concluded the Joint Staff Command Communique.

No 1,935

LD081718 Tehran IRNA in English 1534 GMT 8 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 8, IRNA — The Islamic forces of Iran bombarded enemy artillery postiions, vehicles, and bunkers in the western and northwestern fronts Friday, killing or wounding fifteen Iraqi soldiers. Iraqi artillery fire was also silenced and eight of their weaponry positions and observation posts destroyed.

The Joint Staff Communique Number 1,935, issued Saturday, added that in the southern fronts, the Iranian combatants engaged in offensive tactics, paralyzed enemy patrol, reconnaissance and bunker building activities.

In the West of Arvand River, two Iraqi group bunkers were destroyed and their engineering activities halted by Iranian fire.

Meanwhile Iraqi bombardment of the port-city of Abadan Friday martyred two civilians and damaged two houses.

No 1,936

LD091805 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 9 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec 9, IRNA — One Iraqi truck carrying personnel, six weaponry positions and three observation posts were destroyed and at least 8 enemy personnel were killed or wounded in the western fronts of Ilam and Bakhtaran during the preceding 24 hours, announced the Joint Staff Command Communique No. 1,936 issued today. Iraqi motorised units, fortifications, logistic axes and concentration centres were zeroed in on by the Islamic combatants in these fronts and the Iraqi patrol activities were halted during the said period.

In the northwestern fronts of Piranshah, Sar Dasht, Hajj 'Umran, Marivan and Panjwin, a number of enemy troops were

killed and four light and heavy weaponry positions and one observation post were destroyed.

The Iraqi heavy gun fire was extinguished in the Arvand River fronts and the ground activities of the enemy were distrubed west of the river.

Fire exchange was intense in the southern fronts of Shahrani, Kushk and Hoseyniyeh during the said time.

Four houses and three shops were damaged in Abadan when the city was barraged by Iraqi long-range fire during the past 24 hours, concluded the Joint Staff communique.

Eight Iraqi Positions Hit in Western Fronts

LD072002 Tehran IRNA in English 1938 GMT 7 Dec 84

[Text] Bakhtaran, Dec. 7, IRNA — Eight Iraqi group and individual bunkers as well as observation posts were demolished and 14 enemy troops were killed in the western fronts of Bakhtaran and Ilam during the past 24 hours.

All Iraqi engineering activities, patrol operations, and movements were thwarted by the Islamic combatants in the western fronts during the said period.

Ground Forces Head: Ready for 'Crucial Thrust'

LD081820 Tehran IRNA in English 1803 GMT 8 Dec 84

[Text] Islam, Ilam Pr., Dec. 8, IRNA — Ground Force Commander Colonel 'Ali Sayyad-Shirazi said to a group of townsmen at the Jame' mosque here on Friday night that Iran's Muslim combatants have prepared themselves for crucial thrust upon the Iraqi forces. He said the triumph of the Iranian people over the ruling government in Baghdad will also serve to liberate the Iraqi people from the tyranny of an oppressive government there.

Colonel Sayyad-Shirazi who is here for a personal homage to the martyred combatants and their relatives described the battle-fronts as being in an ideal situation and to the benefit of the Islamic Republic and noted that the Iranian forces have maintained their superiority over the Iraqi forces along some 1,200 kms on the Iran-Iraq border.

The Ground Force commander also presented gifts to a group of commissioned and non-commissioned officers who had demonstrated utmost valour during recent military operations near Meymak.

Ardebil Guards Corps Members Depart for Fronts

GF080748 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 8 Dec 84

[Text] In continuation of the departure of the noble Islamic warriors to the fronts of truth versus falsehood, another group of members of the mobilization forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps of Ardebil left for the war zones of our country yesterday afternoon in order to provide succor to the Islamic combatants. They departed after participating in the politico-ideological ceremonies of Friday prayers and amid a warm send-off by the Hezbollahi residents of this city.

Kuwait Government Continues To Expell Iranians

GF091520 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 9 Dec 84

[Text] In a continuation of its unfriendly acts of expelling Iranian residents from that country, the Kuwaiti Government deported 20 more Muslim Iranians. They arrived by motor launches in Bushehr and Hendijan. According to the Central News Unit, the deportees held legal resident permits in Kuwait. They were arrested at their homes and offices and later expelled from the country.

Those expelled have been were accommodated in special camps which have been provided for them by the governorate general's office in Bushehr.

Radio Iran on Tehran Clashes Between Guards, Public

GF091750 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 9 Dec 84

[Text] Clashes between the armed Guards and the general public continue in Tehran. Last Thursday night in a clash between the Guards and the opponents of the regime in Zhaleh Square, avenues were blocked and long traffic jams occurred. The residents of the area, passersby, and passengers in cars used this opportunity to chant slogans against the regime such as "death to Khomeyni." They switched on car lights and blew their horns to express their hatred for the regime and for the Guards stationed at Zhaleh Square.